

memory based on the remaining [battery] capacity detected by said detector." On page 3, lines 7-9, the Office Action asserts that general controller 211 of Niikawa corresponds to the claim 1 maintain time calculator and specifically refers to col. 13, lines 55-56. This portion of Niikawa relates to calculation of the "available operation time period" of the Niikawa camera. See, for example, col. 13, lines 39-57 and col. 16, lines 8-23. The "available operation time period" is the time period during which the battery voltage V will remain above V_{th} , at which time the camera automatically switches to power-off because stable camera operation no longer is possible. See, for example, col. 1, lines 12-65 of Niikawa. The Niikawa "available operation time period" does not correspond to the claim 1 "maintainable time of the image data maintained in said volatile memory."

As described in Applicant's specification, the power supply voltage V_1 needed to maintain image data in the volatile memory is less than the voltage level V_{min} needed to maintain stable camera operation. The "maintainable time" is different than the "available operation time period" of Niikawa (which corresponds to the "camera enabled time" of Applicant's specification). See, for example, page 10, lines 10-21 of Applicant's specification. Thus, Niikawa does not disclose or suggest the claim 1 "maintain time calculator that calculates a maintainable time of the image data maintained in said volatile memory based on the remaining capacity detected by said detector."

In addition, the "available operation time period" calculated by Niikawa does not even correspond to the time that image data is maintained in the DRAM 209 of Niikawa. The Office Action asserts that DRAM 209 of Niikawa corresponds to the claim 1 volatile memory. However, the "available operation time period" calculated by Niikawa does not correspond to the time that image data is maintained in DRAM 209. As described, for example, at col. 17, lines 11-16 of Niikawa, the power supply to the DRAM 209 can be prohibited before the camera is disabled (that is, before the expiration of the available